

Cameron Parish



"Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community"

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Cameron	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	12.3%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	13.1%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	4.6%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$8,594	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.0%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	2.1%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	0.0	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	95.8%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	95.7%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	9.1%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	9.5%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	0.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	110.1	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	20.0	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	42.6*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	255.2	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	**	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	**	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	**	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	17.8	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	5.1	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 5	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	26.4%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI >30 (adults 20+)	25.7%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	70.8%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	86.2%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	72.5%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EM S/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

Cameron Parish, among the largest in land area in the state, was organized on March 15, 1870. The parish reportedly took its name from Simon Cameron, Lincoln's secretary of war. Early records are sketchy, and comprise the history of several large southwest Louisiana parishes, including Vermilion and Calcasieu. Many of the early wooden courthouses have burned, thus destroying records. Early settlers' names include the Elenders, Deuhons, Faulks, Heberts, Smiths, and Domingos. Early records of Grand Chenier include the names of Placide Labove, who settled in 1836, and



John Smith, John Armstrong, John Sweeney, and James Welse, all settlers who came before 1850. The earliest inhabitants were the Attakapas Indians in the southwesternmost region of the area. Recollections of the early days tell of the enormous orange crops, with some trees producing 5,000 oranges. During the growing season, schooners came from Galveston, Texas, to buy the crops. Despite the devastation caused by Hurricane "Audrey" and others, the parish has always been rebuilt and continues to grow and prosper.

Cameron Parish is home to four wildlife refuges. Hunting, fishing, crabbing, shelling, and bird-watching will entice visitors of all ages. The marsh flowers and birds, alligators, and marsh animals are prevalent in all refuges and along the roads leading into the parish. Over 20,000 people visit the Cameron Refuges on a monthly basis.

Parish Seat³Cameron

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

N/A

Parish Population⁴

2000..... 9,991

2003 (estimate)9,708

2000 Population by Race

White..... 93.7%

African-American 3.9%

Some other race..... 2.5%

Hispanic of Latino (of any race) 2.2%

2000 Population by Age

Under 5 years 6.7%

5-14 16.3%

15-17 5.4%

18-19 2.8%

20-24 6.6%

25-64 51.6%

65 & over 10.6%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	5ft.
Land area in square miles	1313
Water area in square miles	618.7

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual	69°
January	57°
July	89°
Annual average rainfall	58.2 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

Cameron Parish

Civilian.....	3,033
Employed	2,861
Unemployed.....	172
Unemployment.....	5.7%

Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

N/A

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information
<<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary
<http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>.